

Amendments to the Claims:

1 - 20. (canceled)

21. (new) A string instrument including

two portions being a body and a neck and having a plurality of strings extendable between the neck and the body; and

a detachment assembly for detaching the neck from the body, wherein said detachment assembly includes a clamping member attached to a first portion of the two portions and engageable with a retainer member attached to a second portion of the two portions, said clamping member includes a positioning portion and a clamping arm, said clamping arm is actuated by a pivotally connected lever and positioned to be substantially parallel with the longitudinal axis of the first portion when clamping, and said lever is connected by an offset pivot linkage to the first portion;

wherein in use the retainer member engages the positioning portion and pivots about the positioning portion enabling the clamping arm to engage and clamp the retainer member with actuation of the lever thereby locking the two portions together to assemble the instrument and the clamping force produced from the assembled instrument is substantially parallel with the longitudinal axis of the neck and body.

22. (new) A string instrument including

a body and a neck and having a plurality of strings extendable between the neck and the body; and

a detachment assembly for detaching the neck from the body, wherein said detachment assembly includes a clamping member attached to the body and engageable with a retainer member attached to the neck, said clamping member includes a positioning portion and a clamping arm, said clamping arm is actuated by a pivotally connected lever and positioned to be substantially parallel with the

longitudinal axis of the body when clamping, and said lever is connected by an offset pivot linkage to the body;

wherein in use the retainer member engages the positioning portion and pivots about the positioning portion enabling the clamping arm to engage and clamp the retainer member with actuation of the lever thereby locking the neck and body together to assemble the instrument and the clamping force produced from the assembled instrument is substantially parallel with the longitudinal axis of the neck and body.

23. (new) A string instrument as claimed in claim 22, wherein the offset pivot linkage to the body enables the clamping arm to reciprocate when the lever moves about its pivot.

24. (new) A string instrument as claimed in claim 22, wherein the offset pivot linkage includes an offset pivot pin on the lever pivot and is attached to the body so that when the lever moves the clamping arm moves to tighten or loosen the clamping with the retainer member.

25. (new) A string instrument as claimed in claim 22, wherein the lever is connected to the lower side of the body and the lever and clamping arm are positioned within a recess in the lower side of the body.

26. (new) A string instrument as claimed in claim 22, wherein the clamping arm is T-shaped.

27. (new) A string instrument as claimed in 22, wherein the retainer member has a clamp support for engagement with the clamping arm, the clamp support is attached to the underside (non-fret side) of the neck.

28. (new) A string instrument as claimed in claim 22, wherein the retainer member has a locating portion for locating the neck relative to the body prior to clamping; and the locating portion is adapted to engage with the positioning portion on the clamping member so that the neck can pivot about the positioning member for clamping engagement.

29. (new) A string instrument as claimed in claim 22, wherein the retainer member has a locating portion for locating the neck relative to the body prior to clamping; and the locating portion is adapted to engage with the positioning portion on the clamping member so that the neck can pivot about the positioning member for clamping engagement, said locating portion includes a recess and the positioning portion includes a projection adapted for engagement within the recess of the locating portion.

30. (new) A string instrument as claimed in claim 22, wherein the string instrument is a guitar.